

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH EXCERPTS HEDRICK SMITH ARTICLE NEW YORK TIMES
WEDNESDAY MAY 11 HEADED "CARTER ACHIEVED SUCCESS IN
LONDON BY BEING A REALIST."

2. AFTER THE EXCITEMENT OF HIS FIRST WEEKS IN OFFICE,
PRESIDENT CARTER FLEW INTO LONDON LAST THURSDAY NIGHT SOME-
WHAT BELEAGUERED--WITH HIS ENERGY PACKAGE BEING PICKED
APART BY REGIONAL INTERESTS, HIS STANDING IN PUBLIC OPINION
PULLS DOWN 10 POINTS, AND INFLUENTIAL DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL
HILL CHAFING OVER ADMINISTRATION INTERFERENCE IN THE CON-
GRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS. HE HEADED HOME TONIGHT AFTER
DEMONSTRATING HIS SKILL AT PERSONAL DIPLOMACY WITH SOME
PROUD AND TOUCHY EUROPEAN LEADERS, AFTER FINDING NEW HOPE
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FOR HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACE OFFENSIVE, AFTER WINNING'HE
OBVIOUS AND READY AFFECTIONS OF THE BRITISH ELECTORATE,
AND AFTER HELPING RESTORE A SENSE OF COOPERATION AND
PURPOSE IN THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY.

3. FOR MR. CARTER, HIS FIRST VENTURE OVERSEAS HAD PRO-
DUCED THE KIND OF SUCCESS THAT COULD HELP REVIVE THE EARLY

MOMENTUM OF HIS PRESIDENCY, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

4. ALTHOUGH THE WORLD PRESS HAS DEVOTED REAMS OF COPY TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS HERE, THE PRESIDENT AND HIS AIDES UNDERSTOOD IN ADVANCE THAT THE SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS WERE PROBABLY LESS IMPORTANT THAN MR. CARTER'S ABILITY TO PROVE HIMSELF AND TO ESTABLISH HEALTHY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXPERIENCED INTERNATIONAL LEADERS SUCH AS CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT OF WEST GERMANY AND PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING OF FRANCE.

5. MR. CARTER, IN THE VIEW OF LE FIGARO OF PARIS, "SUCCESSFULLY PASSED HIS FIRST EUROPEAN EXAMINATION." "PSYCHOLOGICALLY THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT," IT SAID. "THE EUROPEANS WERE WARY OF FINDING AN EXALTED PREACHER. THEY FEARED A COLD MONSTER. BUT HE CAME THROUGH AS AN UNPRETENTIOUS, MODEST, OPEN MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO LISTEN TO THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS."

6. EVEN AMONG THE LEADERS WHO CAME HERE TO TAKE HIS MEASURE, MR. CARTER FOUND FAVOR BY DEMONSTRATING A FLEXIBILITY THAT DISPELLED SOME OF THE SUSPICIONS HE HAD ENGENDERED WITH HIS EARLIER PRESSURES FOR MORE RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH IN WEST GERMANY AND A HALT IN THE GERMAN AND FRENCH NUCLEAR SALES TO THE THIRD WORLD.

7. AS THE AMERICANS LEAVE LONDON, THEY CONTEND THAT MR.
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CARTER HAS ACHIEVED ALL THAT HE CAME TO DO. HE WON COMMITMENTS FROM THE GERMANS AND JAPANESE TO ACHIEVE PRE-ESTABLISHED GROWTH TARGETS FOR THEIR ECONOMIES, AND FROM ALL SIX COUNTRIES HE WON A PROMISE TO STUDY WAYS TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF EUROPE AND JAPAN FOR MORE NUCLEAR ENERGY WITHOUT RAISING THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION.

8. BUT MR. CARTER'S SUCCESS WAS ACHIEVED BECAUSE HIS OBJECTIVES WERE MODEST. AS HE BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR THESE MEETINGS, HE TAILORED HIS AMBITIONS TO REALITY.

9. THE AMERICANS STOPPED PRESSING THE GERMANS FOR A HIGHER GROWTH RATE IN THEIR ECONOMY OR FOR SPECIFIC MEASURES SUCH AS TAX CUTS OR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. AT THE MEETING HERE, THEY DID NOT PRESS THE GERMANS AND JAPANESE TO LET THE VALUES OF THEIR CURRENCIES RISE AND THUS ABSORB MORE IMPORTS FROM THE WEAKER WESTERN ECONOMIES.

10. IDEALLY, HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO PERSUADE THE EUROPEANS AND JAPANESE TO JOIN HIM IN FORSWARING BREEDER REACTORS AND PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANTS FOR THE FUTURE.

11. ON HUMAN RIGHTS HE WAS CONTENT TO STATE HIS OWN VIEWS WITHOUT PRESSING FOR A COLLECTIVE DECLARATION.

12. FOR THE TIME BEING, HE HAS PUT REALISM AHEAD OF RIGIDITY AND WON FAVOR BY NOT BEING STUBBORN OR DOMINEERING. WHETHER HE CAN TRANSLATE THESE TACTICS IN THE POLITICAL ARENA IN WASHINGTON OR CONVERT HIS SUCCESS HERE INTO NEW EFFECTIVENESS AT HOME, ESPECIALLY IN HIS RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT HE HAS NOW OPENED UP THAT OPPORTUNITY. (END TEXT.) CHRISTOPHER

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